

S-2

FX/RET:adp
1650
Ser 12/ 165-
28 FEB 1968

From: Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon
To: LTJG John F. KERRY, USN, 713525/1105
Via: Commander Coastal Division ONE ONE

Subj: Purple Heart Award; presentation of

Encl: (1) Purple Heart Medal, Ribbon and Lapel Pin

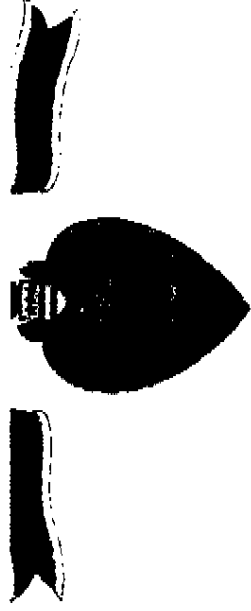
1. On behalf of the Chief of Naval Personnel, the Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon hereby awards you the Purple Heart for injuries received on 2 December 1968.

2. A certificate of this award will be forwarded directly to you by the Chief of Naval Personnel.

DONALD A. STILL
Chief Staff Officer

Copy to:
COMUSMACV
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVFOR
COMUSCINCPAC
COMUSCINCPAC
COMUSCINCPAC





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782
TO

Lieutenant (junior grade) John Forbes Kerry, U. S. Navy

FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN ACTION

2 December 1968

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 2nd day of August 1968

Charles H. Duncan

CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

S-2

HL/ART:adp

1650

ser 12/ 1754

5 MAR 1969

From: Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon
To: LTJG John Forbes KERRY, USN, 715525/1100
Via: Commander Coastal Division GHE GHE

Subj: Purple Heart Award; presentation of

Re: (1) Gold Star

1. On behalf of the Chief of Naval Personnel, the Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon hereby awards you a Gold Star in lieu of a second Purple Heart Award for injuries received on 20 February 1969.

2. A certificate of this award will be forwarded directly to you by the Chief of Naval Personnel.

DONALD A. STILL
Chief Staff Officer

Copy to:
COMUSMACV
CINCPACFLT
CINCPACFLT
COMUSMACV GHE



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HAS AWARDED THE

GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF THE THIRD AWARD OF THE

PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782
TO

Lieutenant (junior grade) John Morbess Perry, U. S. Navy

FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN ACTION

20 February 1954

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS Twelfth DAY OF August 1954

Charles F. Duncan

CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL



S-2

RE/RET:nc
1650
Ser 12/ 2869

17 APR 1969

From: Commander, U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon
To: LTJG John Forbes KERRY, USN, TL3 525/1100
Via: Commander, Coastal Division ONE ONE

Subj: Purple Heart Award; presentation of

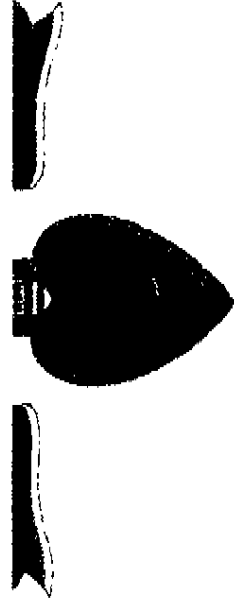
Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-2 1650 Ser 15/pd-110 of 12 January 1966

Encl: (a) Gold Star

1. In accordance with the authority delegated by reference (a), the Commander, U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon takes pride in presenting to you a Gold Star in lieu of a third Purple Heart for injuries received on 13 March 1969.
2. A permanent certificate of this award will be issued to you by the Chief of Naval Personnel upon your request. It is recommended that you make application for this certificate upon your return to the continental United States.

DONALD A. STILL
Chief Staff Officer

Copy to:
COMUSMACV
CINCPACFLT
CHNAVPER



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF THE SECOND AWARD OF THE

PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782
TO

Lieutenant (junior grade) John Forbes Kerry, U. S. Navy

FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN ACTION

13 March 1969

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS Twelfth DAY OF August 1969

Charles F. Duncan

CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL



COMMANDER
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES
VIETNAM

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star Medal to

JOHN FORBES KERRY
LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Officer in Charge of United States Navy Patrol Craft Fast 94 and Officer in Tactical Command of an operation in the Republic of Vietnam. On 28 February 1969, Patrol Craft Fast 23, 43 and 94, in conjunction with Underwater Demolition Team 13 and Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces personnel, conducted an operation on the Ca Mau Peninsula as part of Operations SEA LORDS. While transiting the Bay Hap River en route to an insertion point along the Dong Cung River, these craft with thirty Regional/Popular Force personnel embarked in each unit came under heavy enemy small arms fire from the river banks. The Officer in Tactical Command, Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY directed his units to turn to the beach and charge the Viet Cong positions. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY expertly directed the fire of his craft at the fleeing enemy while simultaneously coordinating the insertion of the embarked troops. While the Regional and Popular Forces conducted an area sweep, Patrol Craft Fast 43 remained on station to provide fire support and Patrol Craft Fast 23 and 94 moved upstream to investigate an area from which gunshots were coming. Arriving at the area, Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY's craft received a B-40 rocket close aboard. Once again Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY ordered his units to charge the enemy positions and summoned Patrol Craft Fast 43 to the area to provide additional firepower. Patrol Craft Fast 94 then beached in the center of the enemy positions and an enemy soldier sprang up from his position not ten feet from Patrol Craft Fast 94 and fled. Without hesitation Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY leaped ashore, pursued the man behind a hootch and killed him, capturing a B-40 rocket launcher with a round in the chamber. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY then led an assault party and conducted a sweep of the area while the Patrol Craft Fast continued to provide fire support. After the enemy had been completely routed, all personnel returned to the Patrol Craft Fast to withdraw from the area. While backing off the beach, these units again came under a hail of fire, this time from the opposite river bank. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY immediately coordinated the firepower of his units and suppressed the enemy fire. Later, after disembarking personnel and while exiting from the Bay Hap River, the Patrol Craft Fast were again taken under fire. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY immediately maneuvered his craft through several

strafing runs which completely silenced the enemy. As a result of this operation, ten Viet Cong were killed and one wounded with no friendly casualties. In addition, numerous sampans, structures and bunkers were destroyed as well as confiscation of substantial quantities of combat essential supplies. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY's devotion to duty, courage under fire, outstanding leadership, and exemplary professionalism directly contributed to the success of this operation and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President



E. R. CUMMALT, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) JOHN F. KERRY
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement while serving with Coastal Division ELEVEN engaged in armed conflict with Viet Cong communist aggressors in An Xuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam on 13 March 1969. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry was serving as Officer in Charge of Inshore Patrol Craft 94, one of five boats conducting a SEA LORDS operation in the Bay Hap River. While exiting the River, a mine detonated under another Inshore Patrol Craft and almost simultaneously, another mine detonated close aboard his Inshore Patrol Craft knocking a man into the water and wounding Lieutenant (jg) Kerry in the right arm. In addition, all units began receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire from the river banks. When Lieutenant (jg) Kerry discovered he had a man overboard, he returned upriver to assist. The man in the water was receiving sniper fire from both banks. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry directed his gunners to provide suppressing fire, while from an exposed position on the bow, his arm bleeding and in pain and with disregard for his personal safety, he pulled the man aboard. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry then directed his boat to return and assist the other damaged Inshore Patrol Craft. His crew attached a line and towed the damaged boat to safety. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry's professionalism, great personal courage under fire, and complete dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the President,

Secretary of the Navy